

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 11 to the following form, add claims 21-23 and cancel claims 2, 9, and 14 without prejudice:

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1. (Amended) A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including a vent element adapted to allow ~~fluid~~ air flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/ or water entering into the interior space whereby excess ~~fluid~~ air pressure within the interior can be reduced by ~~fluid~~ air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means, the vent element comprising Teflon.
  2. (Cancelled)
  3. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is a flexible bellows.
  4. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is secured at each end with a respective collar element.
  5. (Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~fluid~~ air pressure within the interior is maintained at a desired ~~fluid~~ air pressure.

6. (Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 4 5, wherein the desired ~~fluid~~ air pressure is that of the ambient atmospheric air pressure adjacent the protective cover.
7. (Original) A protective cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is located at one end of the deformable structure.
8. (Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element comprises a porosity-calibrated Teflon material structure.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is replaceable in the vent means.
11. (Amended) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is adapted to expel at least some of any contaminants and/or water associated with it upon outward ~~fluid~~ air movements through the vent element as the deformable structure and therefore the interior space is deformed.
12. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is configured as a spout comprising a first portion outwardly perpendicular to the major axis of the cover and a

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second portion parallel to that major axis of the cover whereby the vent means has a substantially "L" shaped configuration.

13. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, made from an elastomeric material.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is adapted to prevent lubricant escaping from the interior space.
16. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is formed separately from the cover and is subsequently connected to the cover.
17. (Original) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the material of the cover enters the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.
18. (Original) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the vent means are connected to the cover by a mechanical bond.

19. (Original) A protective cover arrangement, comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1 respectively secured about the ends of a steering arrangement within a motor vehicle in order to protect that steering arrangement.
20. (Original) A protective cover arrangement comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1, secured about a motor vehicle transmission joint to protect that transmission joint.
21. (New) A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including a vent element adapted to allow air flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/or water entering into the interior space whereby excess air pressure within the interior can be reduced by air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means, the vent means being a separate structure from the cover, the protective cover further comprising a coupling between the vent means and the cover.
22. (New) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the cover is formed of a material, and coupling comprises the material being disposed within the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.

In re Appln. of Gloaguen  
Application No. 10/004,984

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23. (New) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the coupling comprises mechanical bond.
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